

§ 426.478

(2) If the ALJ erred in determining that the contractor's record was complete and adequate to support the validity of the LCD, the Board remands the case to the ALJ for discovery and the taking of evidence.

(3) If a party alleges a prejudicial error of procedure, and the Board determines that such an error was made, the Board may remand the case to the ALJ for further proceedings consistent with the Board decision or may take other appropriate steps to correct the procedural error.

(4) Harmless error is not a basis for reversing an ALJ decision.

(c) *Scope of review.* In reaching its conclusions, the Board is bound by applicable laws, regulations, and NCDs.

(d) *Dismissal as moot.* The Board dismisses an appeal by an aggrieved party of an ALJ decision finding that an LCD was valid if the contractor notifies the Board that it has retired the LCD or revised the LCD to remove the LCD provision in question.

§ 426.478 Retiring or revising an LCD during the Board's review of an ALJ's decision.

A contractor may retire or revise an LCD during the Board's review of an ALJ's decision using the same process described in § 426.420. If an LCD is retired or revised to remove completely the challenged provision(s), the aggrieved party who sought the review is entitled to individual claim review provided at § 426.488(b).

§ 426.480 Withdrawing an appeal of an ALJ's decision.

(a) *Withdrawal of an appeal of an ALJ's decision.* A party who filed an appeal of an ALJ's decision may withdraw the appeal before the Board issues a decision regarding the ALJ's decision.

(b) *Process of withdrawing an appeal of an ALJ's decision.* To withdraw an appeal of an ALJ's decision, the party who filed the appeal must send a written notice announcing the intent to withdraw to the Board and to any other party.

(c) *Actions the Board must take upon receiving a notice announcing the intent to withdraw an appeal of an ALJ's decision—*(1) *Appeals involving one aggrieved*

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party, or initiated by CMS or a contractor. If the Board receives a notice withdrawing an appeal of an ALJ's decision before the Board has issued its decision, the Board must issue a decision dismissing the appeal.

(2) *Appeals involving joint complaints.* If the Board receives a notice withdrawing an appeal from an aggrieved party who is named in a joint appeal before the Board issues its decision, the Board must issue a decision dismissing only that aggrieved party from the appeal. The Board must continue its review of the ALJ's decision for the remaining aggrieved party or parties.

§ 426.482 Issuance and notification of a Board decision.

The Board must issue a written decision, including a description of appeal rights, to all parties to the review of the ALJ decision.

§ 426.484 Mandatory provisions of a Board decision.

(a) *Findings.* A Board decision must include at least one of the following:

(1) A statement upholding the part(s) of the ALJ decision named in the appeal.

(2) A statement reversing the part(s) of the ALJ decision named in the appeal.

(3) A statement modifying the part(s) of the ALJ decision named in the appeal.

(4) A statement dismissing the appeal of an ALJ decision and a rationale for the dismissal.

(b) *Other information.* A Board decision must include all of the following:

(1) The date of issuance.

(2) The docket number of the review of the ALJ decision.

(3) A summary of the ALJ's decision.

(4) A rationale for the basis of the Board's decision.

§ 426.486 Prohibited provisions of a Board decision.

A Board decision must not do any of the following:

(a) Order CMS or its contractors to add any language to a provision or provisions of an LCD.

(b) Order CMS or its contractors to pay a specific claim.